

STATESMAN

THURSDAY, JANUARY 24, 2008

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Ice safety: Not always a clear subject

Lake Superior poses a serious threat to anyone venturing out on the ice shelf, because it has yet to freeze over. | page 19



RYAN HANSEN / STATESMAN

Saving lives one dollar at a time

BY DAYNA D. LANDGREBE

STATESMAN STAFF WRITER

Looking to make a quick buck? Willing to sell your own plasma for it? If so, then plasma donation might be the fastest way to score that extra cash in your pocket, and for many college students, that's the case.

"I've been donating for about a year and a half," said UMD junior Chris Schwartz. "I'm poor and I need money for the weekends mostly."

Schwartz typically donates once a week and gets paid \$30. He will get paid \$35 if he donates a second time in a week.

While a lot of college students do donate plasma, the demographic of donors depends on the location of the center, said Christine Kuhinka, corporate communications representative of ZLB Plasma. The Duluth area has two different plasma centers, ZLB Plasma and DCI Plasma Center of Duluth, each located on Superior Street.

So, what exactly is plasma?

Plasmapheresis, the process of removing plasma and separating it from the red blood cells, is used for a number of life-saving therapies. The red blood cells are then

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PREVIEW

'Freezin' for a reason'

BY ALYSSA ANTILA

STATESMAN STAFF WRITER

Imagine jumping into the largest and one of the coldest lakes in the world in the middle of February. Would you do it? How about to raise money for a special cause? Sounds crazy, but UMD students and members of the community will do just that on Feb. 2, when they take part in the annual

Polar Bear Plunge.

"The Polar Bear Plunge, which is presented by Minnesota Law Enforcement to benefit Special Olympics and part of the year-round fundraising of the Law Enforcement Torch Run, is a unique opportunity for individuals, organizations and businesses to support Special Olympics," said

FREEZIN' to page 4

University police busy over winter break

BY SARA JOCHEMS

STATESMAN STAFF WRITER

Although many students were off-campus during winter break, university police were watching Duluth with regards to drinking and driving.

Third- and fourth-degree DWIs were issued to non-students between Dec. 21 and Dec. 30, 2007.

Lt. Anne Peterson, of the university police, specified the difference between the two types of DWIs that were issued.

"A third degree is considered a gross-misdemeanor, whereas a fourth degree is simply a misdemeanor," Peterson said. "In this case, the suspect was given a third-degree ticket because of aggravating factors. He refused to have his blood alcohol level tested."

Not only were police out issuing DWI tickets because of the holidays, but also because of something called Safe and Sober Night, said Peterson.

"A number of our officers are paid to strictly go out and patrol the roads for signs of drivers behind the wheel while under the influence," she said.

Peterson stressed that Safe and Sober Night originates from the Safe and Sober Campaign, which can be found through the Minnesota Department for

Public Safety's Web site.

According to the city of Minnetrista Web site, in October 2003, the Minnetrista Public Safety Department joined with other police departments around the state of Minnesota in the Safe and Sober Campaign.

The program financially allows extra officers to be on the streets to enforce seatbelt and speeding laws and to keep drunk drivers off of the roads, according to the Web site.

When the new year rolled around, university police were also busy handing out no-drop tickets.

"No-drop tickets pertain to drivers who are caught drinking and driving under the age of 21," Peterson said. "Even though their blood alcohol levels are under .08, because they are underage, their ticket will not be taken off of their permanent record."

Peterson said if people choose to drink, they should also choose to dress accordingly with regards to the weather.

"You never know what could happen," she said. "Someone may trip and fall or become tired and fall asleep and seeing that it is the time of year when temperatures are colder, more devastating consequences can occur."

Besides alcohol related



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY POLICE

Photo of a reported couch stolen between Sunday and Monday morning.

incidents, university police had to deal with possession of stolen property.

Specifically speaking, one of the Griggs dorm rooms contained a stolen traffic sign from Wisconsin.

"During a routine room check, after the dorms are locked up over break, an RA found a stop sign in a room," Peterson said. "After students returned to the dorms, the RA notified police of the stolen sign."

According to the report, the student said that he didn't "steal it, he got it from a friend about 10 years ago."

University police contacted the Lake Geneva police, where the sign came from, but it is unknown what is going to happen.

Besides a road sign, university property was

reported stolen on Monday, Jan. 22.

"A brand new, two-seated, light oak wooden couch with blue fabric worth \$566 was stolen in the Lake Superior lobby between 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 21 and 8 a.m. Jan. 22," Peterson said.

She stressed that if anyone has information about the theft, to please contact university police.

"Remember to keep doors locked and take note of the serial numbers of personal items," she said. "It is easier for us to track things down with that information."

Peterson also advises students that personal valuables should not be left in cars because they too are targets.

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Wall Street affected by interest rate cut

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street stumbled through an erratic session Wednesday, with the major indexes spending much of the day with steep losses before regaining ground on bargain hunting. The Dow Jones industrials fell more than 320 points, then made it into positive territory before heading back down again.

The volatility that has become a hallmark of Wall Street's performance in recent months likely will continue as investors take a further look at the most worrisome areas of the economy such as the housing sector, said Alan B. Lancz, director at investment research firm LanczGlobal.

"You're going to get the volatility because investors will see we're not

out of the woods with the 75 basis point cut. I expect continued volatility and continued difficult times for the market to make significant progress," he said, referring to Federal Reserve's 0.75 percentage point cut in its benchmark federal funds rate on Tuesday.

At this point, it is unclear whether the stock market is heading into a bear market, or bottoming out before a recovery.

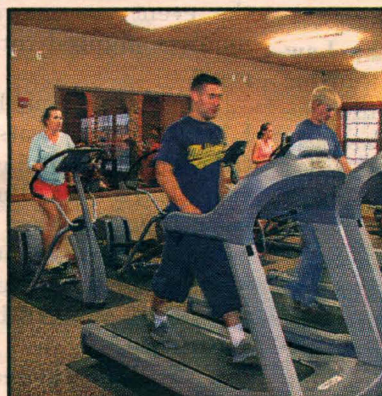
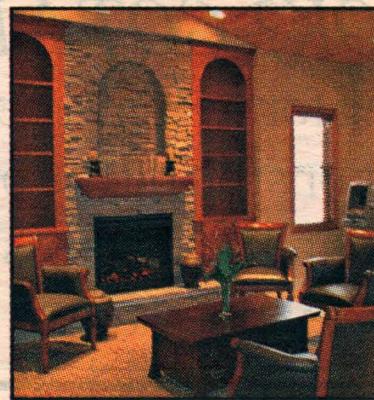
Steve Goldman, chief market strategist at Weeden & Co., said the market is seeing a massive, positive shift.

"The early leaders in a market recovery tend to be banks, REITs (real estate investment trusts) and

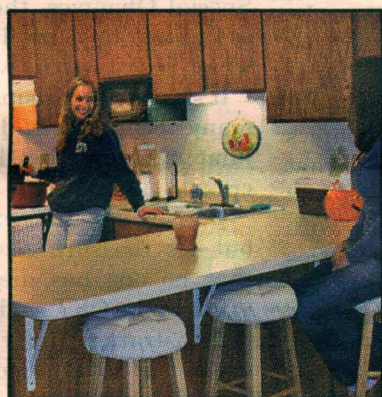
homebuilders as these are the groups that typically would benefit first from a turnaround. And those have been the market leaders this week," Goldman said. "What has happened is the Fed is flooding the system with liquidity and eventually we should see some traction in the economy. And stocks tend to respond first."

But Todd Salamone, vice president of research at Schaeffer's Investment Research in Cincinnati, noted that recent trading patterns have indicated that there are few confident buyers in the market.

"You continue to see a handful of buyers come in, but they're quickly overwhelmed by the sellers," Salamone said.



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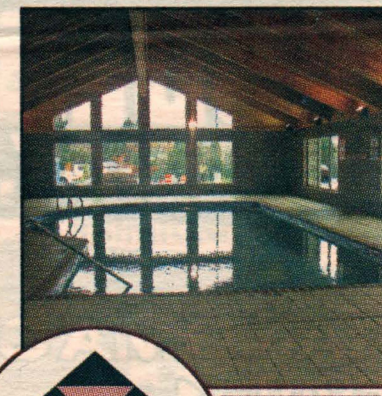
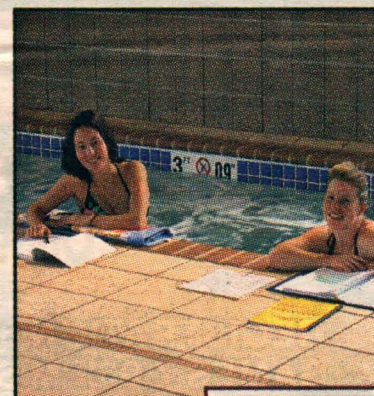
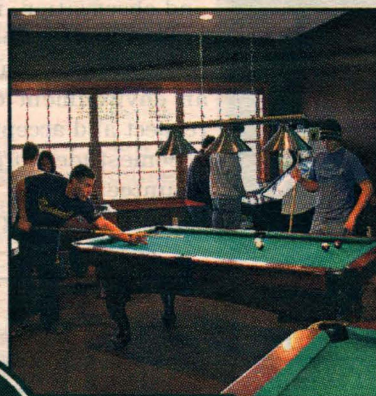
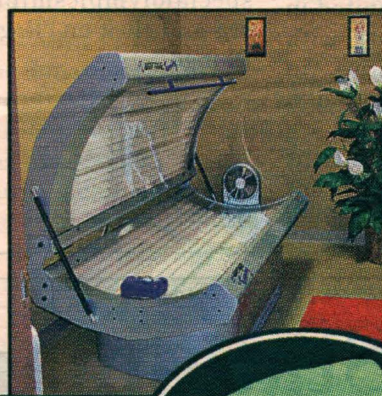
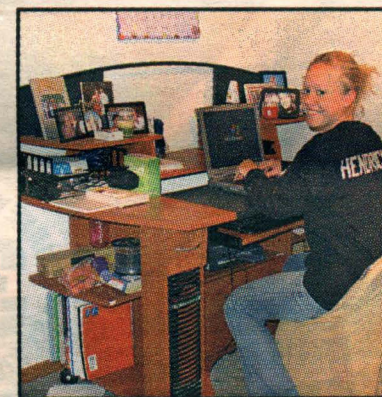
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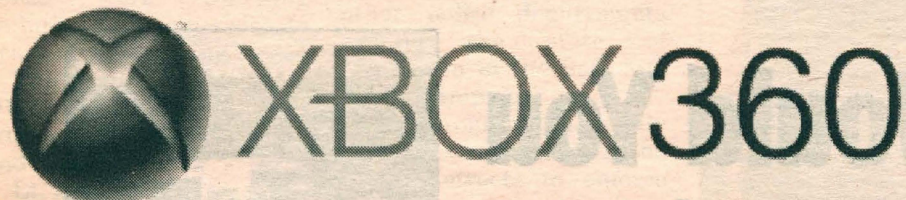
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FREEZIN'

Continued from front

Danielle Foreman, a volunteer helping with the plunge.

However, the Polar Bear Plunge isn't just taking place in Duluth. Cities across the state that have already taken the plunge include White Bear Lake and Willmar, during the month of January. Throughout February, other cities will participate, including Rochester, St. Peter and Minneapolis.

"The mission of the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics is to raise funds for, and awareness of, the Special Olympics movement worldwide," Foreman said.

The Special Olympics is a foundation that allows people with various disabilities to participate in sporting events much like those of the regular Olympics that are held every four years. The philosophy of the Special Olympics as noted on their Web site (www.specialolympicsminnesota.org), is, "Special Olympics Minnesota believes that through sports training and competition, people with intellectual disabilities benefit physically, mentally, socially and spiritually; families are strengthened; and the community at large, both through participation and observation, is united in understanding people with intellectual disabilities in an environment of equality, respect and acceptance."

Some student organizations volunteering at the event include Phi Sigma Sigma

and Tau Kappa Epsilon.

"I think jumping into a freezing lake is considered to be crazy and a lot of people would pay to see someone do it," said sophomore and member of Phi Sigma Sigma Vanessa Hurst.

This will be Hurst's second year taking the plunge and the sorority's fifth year participating.

Last year Hurst got lucky, though. It ended up being too cold to jump into the lake, so the event was moved and jumpers plunged into large pools.

"I'm a bit nervous because I heard it's far worse than the pools we jumped into last year," Hurst said. "But at the same time, I'm very excited because I will be jumping with all of my sisters and it will be another bonding experience."

With all the proceeds from the event going toward the Special Olympics, the funds are going to a good cause, which Hurst agrees with.

It's not surprising that many people would think jumping into the lake is crazy.

"I know it sounds extreme, but it's reassuring to know that no one has died, so I think I'll be OK," said Hurst.

Registration for the event is still open. To register visit www.specialolympicsminnesota.org and click on "Register to Plunge."

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PLASMA

Continued from front

returned into the body and then the body regenerates plasma in less than 24 hours, said the DCI Plasma Web site.

"It's easier to donate [plasma] more frequently than donating blood," said Kuhinka. "You are donating portions of your blood—plasma—red and other blood cells are given back."

Because the other blood cells are safely returned to the body, a person can donate up to two times a week, she said.

"I started donating a year ago for an extra paycheck," said Duluth resident Nicole Kutzorik, 22. Kutzorik donates twice a week at ZLB Plasma and gets paid \$20 each time.

However, the payment to plasma donors is not for their plasma but is compensation for the time taken to donate, Kuhinka said. Donation typically takes an hour to an hour and a half based on the individual weight of the donor.

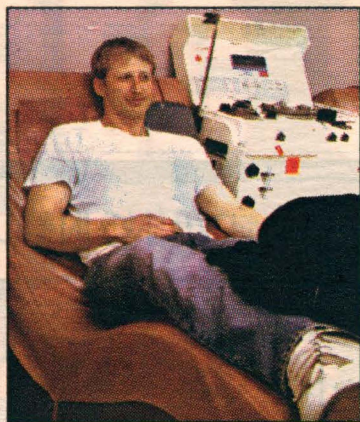
While the individual weight of the donor may vary, there are a few requirements of each donor:

- Weigh at least 110 pounds
- Be between the ages of 18-59
- Live within 125 miles of the donation center
- Have proper identification and proof of a social security number
- Be in good health

"This is a totally safe process, as long as you are healthy," Kuhinka said. "The center does extensive screening and a quick physical exam. If you are not in good health, it's not healthy for the individual or the quality of the plasma."

The verbal screening is re-evaluated every time a person donates but the medical exam is only conducted prior to your first donation and then on an annual basis.

After a person's second visit, the first donation of plasma can be used after being stored and tested for safety and quality, according



TYLER SWEENEY / STATESMAN

Jeremy Bergan relaxes while donating plasma earlier this week at the DCI Plasma Center in West Duluth.

to the ZLB Plasma Web site.

"I've never donated plasma but I think it's an easy way that ordinary people can support the medical establishment," said UMD student Laura Halbur. "Becoming a nurse or doctor takes a lot of time and work. I think donating plasma can still contribute without the time or education," said Halbur, 17, a PSEO student from the Duluth area, who is not of age to donate yet.

While some people support the process, others may feel that donation is a means for a solely personal income. Senior Gretchen Egeberg supported the idea as long as it had good intentions for its use.

"I'm OK about doing it (donating) for charity but it seems that the majority of people do it for personal gain," said Egeberg.

Kuhinka describes donating as a relatively relaxing process, including a special type of reclining chair and the opportunity to catch up on a good book or watch some TV. Donors should get plenty of rest, eat a full meal and stay away from caffeinated beverages before donating.

"This is a great way for college students to give back and be compensated for their time," said Kuhinka. "They should feel good—they are saving lives."

For more information, access the ZLB Plasma Web site at www.zlbplasma.com or the DCI Plasma Center of Duluth at www.dciplasma.com.

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Possible passenger rail to bring billions to Minnesota

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—A passenger rail line proposed to connect Minneapolis and Duluth is expected to help generate almost \$2 billion in development around five new rail stations.

That's according to a study of the project prepared by a passenger-rail planning firm and presented Tuesday to a Minneapolis City Council committee and the Anoka County Board.

"This is real," said Alex Metcalf, president of Transportation Economics & Management Systems (TEMS), the Maryland-based firm that prepared the study.

The five stations are presumed to be in Minneapolis, Coon Rapids, Cambridge, Hinckley, Duluth and Superior, Wis. The Minneapolis station, near the new Minnesota Twins ballpark, would already be benefiting from links to the Hiawatha light rail line and the planned Northstar commuter line, scheduled to open in 2009.

The TEMS study projected that station would see development in the \$730 million to \$990 million range.

Another major benefactor would be Hinckley, home of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe's Grand Casino Hinckley. The study projected the area could see as much as \$340 million in new development around its station.

The other stations would see similar if not quite as large benefits—\$260 million in Coon Rapids; \$170 million in Cambridge;

\$190 million in Duluth; and \$90 million in Superior.

The study projects the line would attract as many as 3,000 riders a day. It would likely charge \$36 for one-way fares from Minneapolis to Duluth and \$18 from Minneapolis to Hinckley, excluding discounts. The trip from Minneapolis to Duluth would take two hours with stops.

The line would support eight daily trains capable of speeds up to 110 miles per hour. It would generate 13,833 jobs throughout the corridor, according to the study.

The projected cost of the line is \$362.6 million, but that figure excludes the cost of building stations and whatever Burlington Northern Santa Fe decides to charge for use of its rails.

But key members of Minnesota's congressional delegation, including U.S. Sens. Norm Coleman and Amy Klobuchar and U.S. Rep. Jim Oberstar, have weighed in with their support, increasing the possibility that the state could persuade the Federal Railroad Administration to fund 70 to 80 percent of the costs to establish the line.

Metcalf stressed to the Minneapolis and Anoka County officials that TEMS would not hesitate to offer a negative assessment if warranted.

"Here's an opportunity, guys," Metcalf told the Anoka County Board. "You should take full advantage of it."

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OUR VOICE: EDITORIAL

Political debate: Why the hostility?

Whether you're Liberal, Conservative or Independent, a political discussion is almost a guaranteed atmosphere of tension and sometimes heated debate.

Students are often reluctant to discuss common political arguments for fear of confrontation or potential feuds with friends, family or acquaintances. This shouldn't be the case.

Two students who share different view points should be able to discuss politics in an educated atmosphere where both can express their thoughts without being scrutinized. That doesn't mean that you can't judge a person based on what they say. In fact, you might even inquire further into why they think the way they do, because more often than not, you'll discover an issue or a view worth acknowledging.

The 2008 elections bring about a lot of opportunities and change for each and every one of us. As students, citizens and voters, these issues should be discussed. If my neighbor or hallmate is a Conservative and I am a Liberal, I should be able to talk to him or her about important issues, ones that I may or may not have considered.

Our differences are not grounds for silence; they should be an opportunity for enlightened thought and critical thinking. As students and, more importantly, citizens of a democracy, we have the ability to discuss politics and government without worrying about being punished. Freedom of speech is a great thing and a practice that should be entertained with more frequency. Simply having political views is not enough; test them, sit down with your Conservative or Liberal roommate and allow them the respect and opportunity to discuss with you their thoughts on this coming election. If you're like I am, you have a lot of questions and concerns relating to the election. As an educated voter, there are a lot of choices and issues to consider when looking for our next president, and I often find myself wishing I had another view and opinion to take into consideration.

Politics don't have to be a tense atmosphere all the time; it can be a fun and enlightening experience when discussed in the right setting. As fellow students and citizens, we urge you to allow others of contrasting political affiliations to voice their opinion about issues, and who knows—you may both learn something you hadn't known.



Hillary Clinton, no stranger to controversy

BY PETER ZETHRAUS

STATESMAN STAFF WRITER

For all three of the politicians seeking the 2008 Democratic nomination—Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama and John Edwards—the theme of “change” has continued to come up.

It is no surprise that “change” would be a strong argument for Democratic candidates pushing for new leadership after nearly eight years of turmoil and debacle in the George W. Bush administration.

Change also is turning the tide in the American political arena insofar as it is the first time in history that there is a female candidate and a Black candidate who have a legitimate chance at being elected president.

For her entire career in politics, Hillary Clinton has been no stranger to controversy and criticism. One of the cornerstones in her campaign, as well as in the criticism against her, has been her economic plan. Strengthening the middle class is one of the main points in the Clinton economy plan. According to her campaign Web site, “After six and a half years of Bush administration policies, the middle class is struggling to succeed in an economy that is leaving more and more Americans behind.”

With the economy being in the situation it

is in today, a strong economic plan is vital for a politician of Clinton's caliber and reputation. Given her history of problems with the health care initiatives and policies that she has pushed for, it is crucial that she lure Democrats and moderate Independents who have had problems with her and have not supported her in the past.

In my opinion, Clinton's economic policies are one of her stronger and more prominent points. I also understand Hillary's point that a “vibrant middle class is essential for American economic prosperity.”

However, the problems that Clinton runs into are the voters who outright hate her just because she is Hillary Clinton, and therefore associated with the Clinton family, particularly her husband, former President Bill Clinton. This is what has bothered me about this election more than anything else. It's one thing to disagree with someone because of their policies, but to me, it feels like people today only loathe Clinton because of who she is. If Clinton does indeed get the nomination for president, Democrats should support her just as they would Obama or Edwards. Whether Democrat or Republican, we must support the change that is coming in American politics and our country.

Peter Zethraus is at
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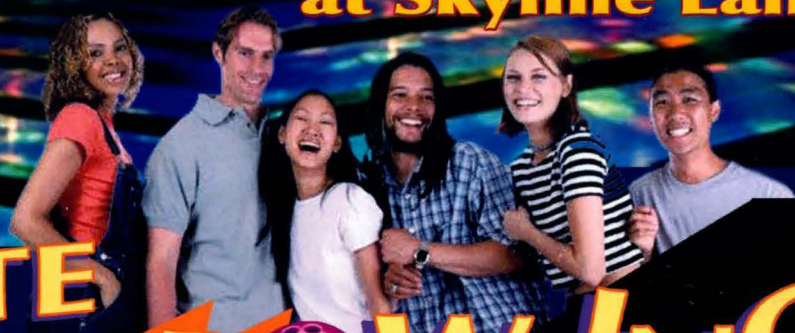
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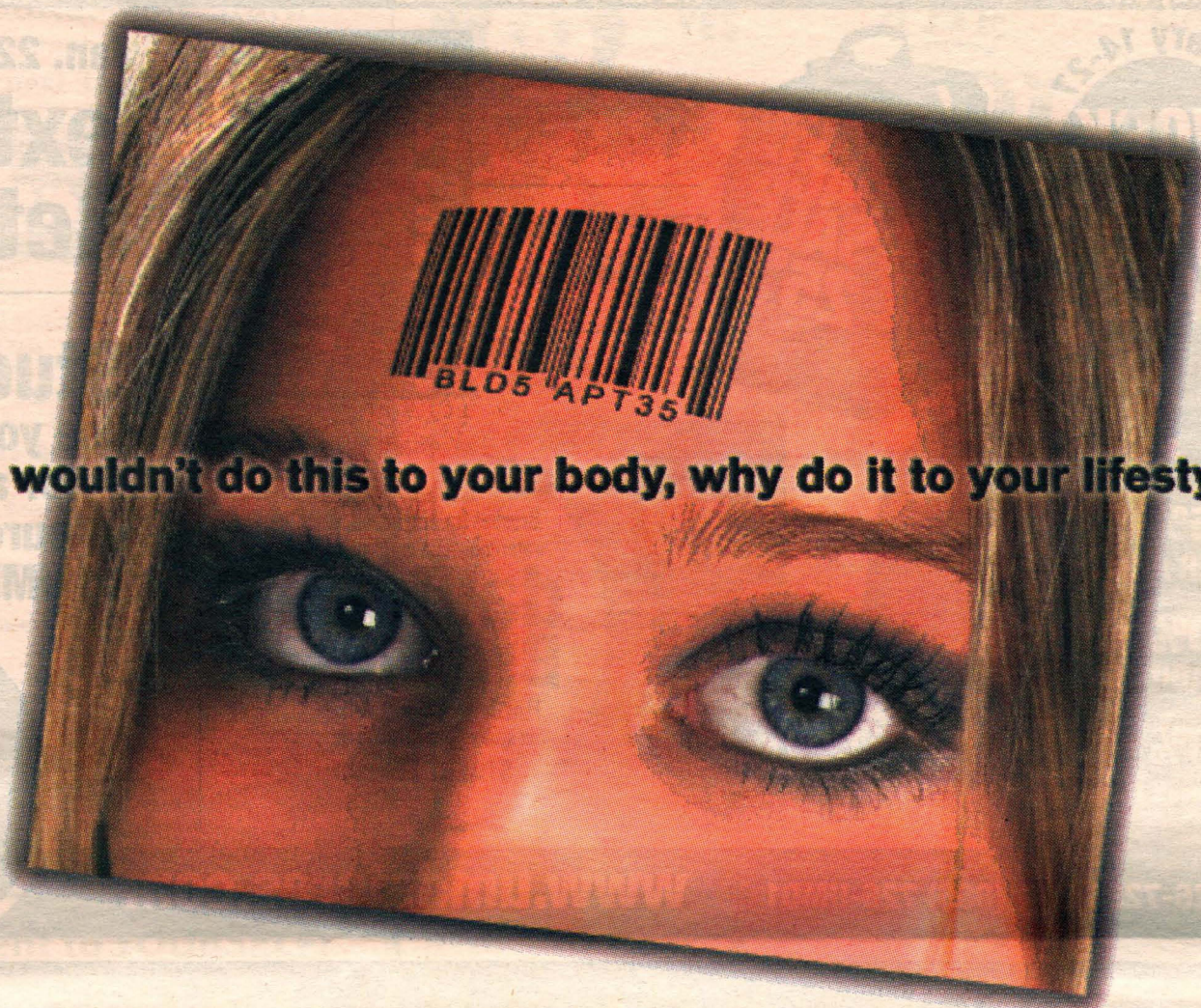
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PUZZLE ANSWERS

Puzzles on page 20

Yesterday's Jumbles: FIFTY EXCEL CORNEA INVITE
 Answer: Any way you look at it, this pertains to a
 city — CIVIC

7	5	3	1	4	2	9	8	6
4	6	9	7	8	5	1	2	3
2	1	8	9	6	3	4	5	7
1	2	6	8	7	4	5	3	9
8	7	4	3	5	9	6	1	2
9	3	5	6	2	1	8	7	4
5	9	1	2	3	6	7	4	8
6	8	2	4	1	7	3	9	5
3	4	7	5	9	8	2	6	1

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'Brokeback Mountain' star dead at 28

Bottle of pills found next to celebrity's body.

NEW YORK (AP)—Heath Ledger was found dead Tuesday at a downtown Manhattan residence, and police said drugs may have been a factor. He was 28.

NYPD spokesman Paul Browne said Ledger had an appointment for a massage at the Manhattan apartment believed to be his home. The housekeeper who went to let him know the masseuse had arrived found him dead at 3:26 p.m.

A large crowd of paparazzi and gawkers began gathering Tuesday evening outside the building on an upscale block in SoHo, where several police officers guarded the door.

The Australian-born actor was nominated for an Oscar for "Brokeback Mountain," where he met Michelle Williams in 2005. The two had lived in Brooklyn and had a daughter, Matilda, until they split up last year.

He most recently appeared in "I'm Not There," in which he played one of the many incarnations

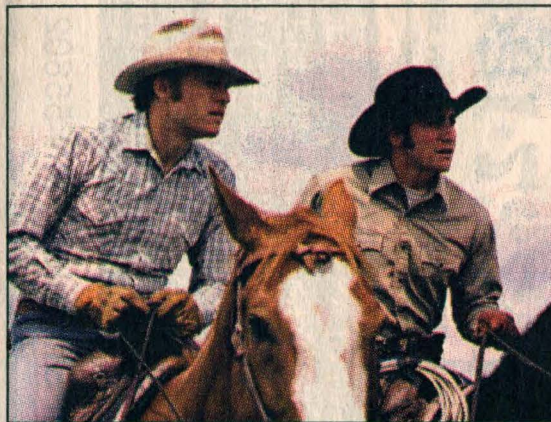
of Bob Dylan—as did Cate Blanchett, whose performance in that film earned an Oscar nomination Tuesday for best supporting actress.

Ledger was to appear as the Joker this year in "The Dark Night," a sequel to 2005's "Batman Begins." He's had starring roles in "A Knight's Tale" and "The Patriot," and played the suicidal son of Billy Bob Thornton in "Monster's Ball."

Ledger grew up in Perth, and began doing amateur theater at age 10. At 16, he moved to Sydney to pursue an acting career, quickly landing TV movie roles and guest spots on Australian television.

After several independent films and a starring role in the short-lived Fox TV series "Roar," Ledger moved to Los Angeles and costarred in "10 Things I Hate About You," a teen comedy reworking of "The Taming of the Shrew."

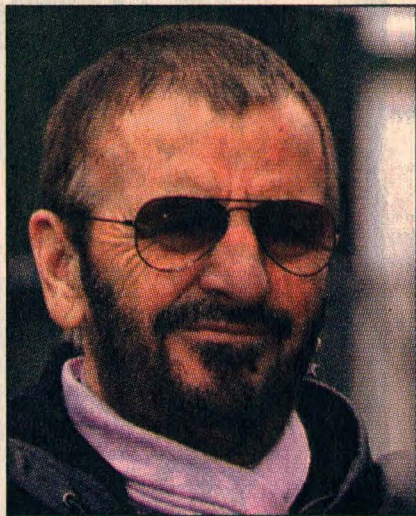
Offers for other teen flicks came his way, but Ledger turned them down, preferring to remain



Heath Ledger (Right) with Jake Gyllenhaal in a scene from the popular 2006 movie "Brokeback Mountain."

idle than sign on for projects he didn't like.

"It wasn't a hard decision for me," Ledger told the Associated Press in 2001. "It was hard for everyone else around me to understand. Agents were like, 'You're crazy,' my parents were like, 'Come on, you have to eat.'"



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Starr, who is promoting his new album, "Liverpool 8," planned to perform the title song on the talk show. However, due to a miscommunication, Starr did not realize that the performance had to be 2 1/2 minutes or less.

Ringo walks off live TV set

NEW YORK (AP)—Ringo Starr is known for being the amiable Beatle, but the rock star showed his tough side Tuesday when he walked off the set of "Live With Regis and Kelly" rather than cut short one of his songs.

Starr, who is promoting his new album, "Liverpool 8," planned to perform the title song with fellow rocker Dave Stewart. However, due to miscommunication between his publicist, Elizabeth Freund, and the musical director, Starr didn't realize the performance had to be 2 1/2 minutes or less, Freund told The Associated Press.

When told Tuesday morning that the performance had to be shortened, Freund said Starr tried to cut about a minute of the song's 4 minute, 15 second length, down to 3 minutes and 30 seconds. However, according to Freund, producer Michael Gellman said it had to be less than 3 minutes.

"We offered to cut back our chat time and asked them to fade or go to commercial. They were not willing to do that, and Ringo was not willing to cut it further, so without a compromise we were not able to stay," Freund said in a statement to The Associated Press. "Ringo left saying, 'God bless and goodbye. We still love Regis.'"

A spokeswoman for "Regis and Kelly" told the AP the show's producers tried to work with Starr, noting his appearance had been booked since November and the time requirement for the song—the show's standard—had been expressed numerous times.

With Starr absent, fashion designer Michael Kors and the winners of CBS' "The Amazing Race" did extra segments to fill his time.

Starr, 67, shortened his song for CBS' "Late Show With David Letterman," but it was still over three minutes, Freund said.

Artist's first solo showing opens at the Tweed

Exhibit runs through March, with a chance to meet the artist William Wilson at the opening reception on Feb. 9.



BY JAMI REINHART
STATESMAN STAFF WRITER

"Ojibwe Inabandamowin (Ojibwe Dreams)," a collection of paintings by William Wilson, moved into the upstairs of the Tweed Museum of Art last week. The exhibit is Wilson's first solo exhibition in the northwestern United States.

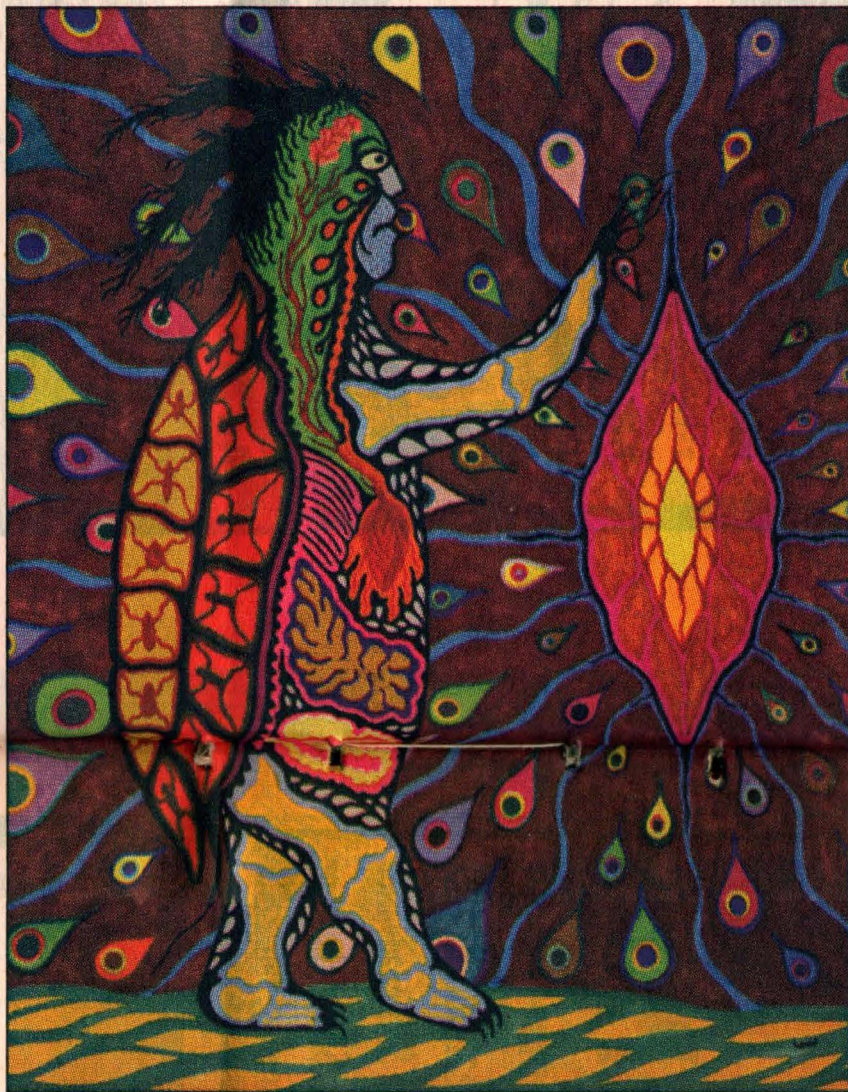
Inspired by dreams, visions and stories passed down from his elders, Wilson's exhibition: "Ojibwe Inabandamowin," will be on display through March 31 and there will also be a free Gallery Talk and opening reception with Wilson Saturday, Feb. 9 from 2-4 p.m.

Growing up near Ontario, Canada, snowshoeing, trapping, fishing, moose hunting and berry picking were traditional ways of life for Wilson and his everyday survival, according to a Tweed Museum of Art press release.

As a multi-faceted artist, Wilson uses the experiences of his upbringing as inspiration for the creation of not only his drawings but his traditional Ojibwe beadwork, baskets, cradleboards, snowshoes, moccasins and pipes.

Embodying a strong connection to the spirit world of Anishinabe tradition, as well as a Native-American world-view that all forms of creation are connected and possess the essence of a spirit, Wilson's drawings often inspire a deeper appreciation from the audience.

Known as the Woodlands style, Wilson's work is a vibrant presentation of bright colors, outlined forms of animals, spirit beings and narratives of traditional Anishinabe (Native American)



SUBMITTED ARTWORK

Above left: Kweedjeewin (I am By Your Side) Above: Mikinoook Onini (Snapping Turtle Man)

ways of life.

The portrayal of life forms in X-ray style is another distinguished feature of Wilson's work. Depicting life forms in both an inner spirit and an outer form allows the audience to see the spirit inside what is drawn by Wilson.

Wilson currently lives with his

wife, physicist and artist Annette Lee, along with two dogs and three horses in the foothills of Missouri.

Drawings by Wilson will be available to purchase through the Tweed Museum Store.

Jami Reinhart is at
reinh079@d.umn.edu.

Allie B's Hollywood Hotspot

BY ALLIE BENTRUD
STATESMAN STAFF WRITER

Wow, I don't even know where to begin! While you were off relaxing on your winter break, your favorite celebs were busy keeping Hollywood buzzing, so sit back and catch up with the latest and greatest in entertainment news.

For starters, I am thinking of adopting a strict "No B.S. Policy," and by B.S., I mean Britney Spears. Ouch, that was painful to type even once. She's everywhere and it's too much; can we all agree we don't need any more coverage of her? Perfect!

Moving on to all of the insane baby news that occurred over break!

The lovely Christina Aguilera and her husband Jordan Bratman gave birth to a baby boy, Max Liron Bratman, on Jan. 12. If that wasn't special enough already, Max Liron roughly translates to "Greatest Song" in Hebrew.

Not to be outdone, just one day before Aguilera, Nicole Richie gave birth to a baby girl, which she and daddy Joel Madden named Harlow Winter Kate Madden, according to Perezhilton.com. While the couple announced plans to wed last year, no such wedding occurred

or is currently known to be in the works.

As if two celebrity babies weren't enough, a few big name stars announced they were expecting babies as well! Nicole Kidman, who is married to country star Keith Urban, reluctantly announced her pregnancy recently. The actress, who has suffered miscarriages in the past, has two adopted children with ex-husband Tom Cruise, and this will be the first biological child for Kidman and Urban.

The hunky star of the upcoming film "Fool's Gold" (opening Feb. 8), Matthew McConaughey, announced to People Magazine that he and his girlfriend, Camila Alves, are expecting as well. Alves, who is a Brazilian model, is said to be three months along.

In couple news, there were some surprising engagements, quick "marriages" and even quicker break-ups that occurred over break. Eddie Murphy married Tracey Edmonds, a film producer, in Bora Bora on Jan. 1. However, the service was not legally binding, and the couple, who was seen fighting in public on numerous occasions, decided two weeks later to forgo their plan of a legally binding ceremony.

"Gossip Girl" fans will be interested to hear that on-screen co-stars Penn Badgley, who plays Dan Humphrey, and Blake Lively, who plays Serena van der Woodsen, are officially an off-screen item, according to Perezhilton.com.

I'm sorry to crush the dreams of many young men, but the "New York Daily News" is reporting the gorgeous and talented Scarlett Johansson is recently engaged to actor Ryan Reynolds. Reynolds, who recently starred in movies like "Just Friends" and "Smokin' Aces," dated and was engaged to singer Alanis Morissette not too long ago. Johansson and Reynolds have been together for a year now.

In some very sad news, former child star Brad Renfro, who made his big debut in the hit movie "The Client," was found dead in his L.A. home Jan. 15, at the age of 25. Renfro, a notorious drug addict, died of causes that are still unknown, according to Perezhilton.com.

All I asked for Christmas was a resolution to the writers' strike, and I am sad to report that I did not get what I wished. Even worse is that there has been virtually no news on any progress being made in the strike. However, the Director's

Guild of America (DGA) came to a quick resolution with their contract negotiations, and many are hoping their resolution will serve as a blueprint in negotiations between the writers and producers.

The writers' strike led to a very dismal "Golden Globe Awards" on Jan. 13, as NBC only held a press conference to release the winners' names and absolutely no celebrities were present. The Writers Guild of America (WGA) has announced plans to picket the "Oscars" and even the "Grammy Awards" if the strike is not settled before they are set to air. Their intentions to strike the "Grammy Awards" are upsetting many as the WGA is not related to the music industry in the way they are related to the TV and film industry. However, artists who are also members of the Screen Actors Guild (i.e., Justin Timberlake, among others) will most likely not attend the "Grammys" if the WGA does picket the ceremony in February.

Even with the overwhelming amount of reality T.V. shows due to the strike, there are a few shows that still have all new episodes coming your way. Do yourself a favor and check out the fifth season of the CW show "One Tree Hill," as they



have a stellar cast and several new episodes ready to go. The show, starring Chad Michael Murray and Sophia Bush, jumps ahead four years from their last season and picks up after college graduation. "Lost" on ABC and "Medium" on NBC also have a good stock of new shows.

If you know what a Muggle is, you are probably going to be very excited to hear that the final Harry Potter movie, "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows," is going to be released in two parts, according to "The Daily Mail." The book is said to be too much to adequately cover in one film, according to the film's production company. I say they should have figured that out starting with "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire." Oh well, more Harry Potter is always good news, even if it is a couple films too late.

Spring semester! You focus on school and I'll work to bring you the best celebrity news of the week!

Allie Bentrud is at
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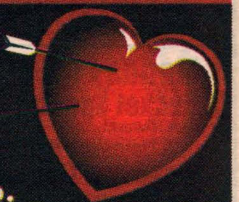
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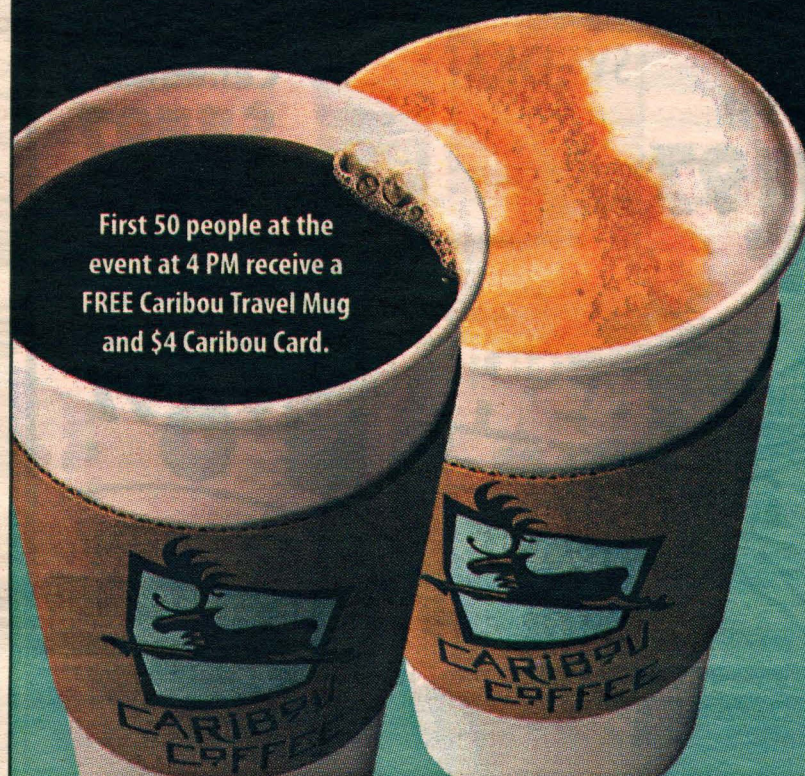
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Taco Bell meat grade: D for dog (and delicious)

BY BOBBY DOWNS
STATESMAN STAFF WRITER

In a society hell-bent on getting what they want, when and how they want it, it's no wonder so many people are turning to the convenience of watered down, delicious, cheap western cuisine at our fingertips. Taco Bell has gained a sterling reputation of curing the drug/alcohol induced munchies for a delightfully low price. But how, you ask, can something so delicious be offered for such a reasonable price? The answer is simple: dog meat.

The food service industry has been practicing the old "switcheroo" with their meats for years. The process is quite simple, really. All it takes is some wit, skill, luck and a dedication to profiteering.

After careful (although very little) research, I've concluded that there is a five-step process to swindling dog meat into their establishments. Keep in mind that using uninspected dog meat is illegal, and all of this must be done in the dead of night.

Step one: dog herding

This step isn't as fun as it sounds. It involves quickly and effectively setting up a series of deadly electric fences around packs of wild dogs. Wild dogs are often found in places like Mexico or ... well ... Mexico. If packs of wild dogs cannot be located, then drastic measures must be taken. This explains the fragments of dog collars found in your beef and bean burrito.

Step two: from dog to meat

The details of this step can be skipped. We wouldn't want anyone losing his or her appetite, now would we?

Step three: blessing of the meat

The sacred ritual of frolicking around the meat. Actually, this isn't as formal and spiritual as it sounds. It's more of an excuse for

the smugglers to drink some of their moonshine and throw a mixer. Only after everybody has passed out and/or thrown up is the meat considered formally blessed. Let's just hope they aimed their vomit accurately.

Step four: smuggling

Since all of Taco Bell's meat is shipped from Texas, it's obvious that the meat was smuggled across the Mexican border. I'm guessing it goes something like this.

It starts with two semi-truck trailers. One is packed to the brim with dog meat, the other with packing peanuts. The two semis travel side by side down a worn-down Mexican highway at incredibly high speeds.

The Mexican government is engaged in a hot pursuit of the smugglers, but there is only enough time and resources to pursue one of the semis. El Policia must choose.

WHOOOPS! They chose the wrong trailer. Now all they have is a handful of packing peanuts. The trailer full of dog meat bursts through the border and drives off to freedom.

Step five: the switcheroo

This is by far the most rewarding of the five steps. It is the step in which the smugglers must combine their illegally transported dog meat with the pre-existing beef. In the giant bucket half-full of Taco Bell's Grade D Beef, the smugglers dump their meat directly from the hot, dirty semi trailer into the sweltering, meat-filled vat. The meat is then shipped off to every Taco Bell restaurant in the country. You can call it wrong, or you could call it expediency. I call it delicious.

Bobby Downs is at
down0146@d.umn.edu.

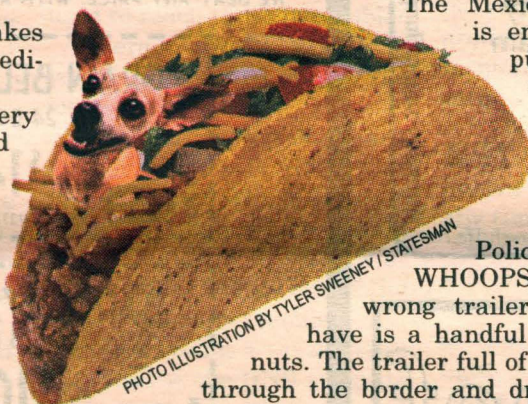


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY TYLER SWEENEY / STATESMAN

TOPTEN

New Year's Resolutions

BY TYLER DOMAAS

STATESMAN STAFF WRITER AND RENOWNED POP ARTIST

10. I will take the expiration dates on milk cartons seriously.
9. I will cut out all Star Trek references from my pick up lines.
8. I will finally accept that the time of pogs is over.
7. I will stop writing letters begging for the return of the XFL.
6. I will no longer use puppet shows in my audition tapes for "The Real World."
5. I will take that girl's restraining order against me seriously this time.
4. I will stop giving the pizza delivery guy a beer as a tip.
3. I will learn to accept the fact that Shaq is not an Oscar-worthy actor.
2. I will go on a full date without getting tased for once.
1. I will stop mistaking the super glue for lube during my alone times.

Tyler Domaas is at
domaa002@d.umn.edu.



LETTERS TO PEOPLE

BY STEVE JACOBS

STATESMAN STAFF WRITER

Dear Short Round,

LOOK OUT, INDY, LOOK OUUUT! No, seriously though, how have ya been? I'm just really curious to know what everybody's favorite urchin is up to. I'm sure you're a real killer on the streets of Hong Kong these days. Sure the neighborhood has changed slightly since the mid-80s, but there's still room for a grubby sidekick in a beat up Yankees hat.

I mean, I'm going to make the assumption that you haven't aged a day since I saw you help bring an end to a corrupt power led by a pagan god; I could really use the services rendered by your particular talent. If I pay you, will you come live with me and shout out all of your thoughts, fears, snappy comebacks and everything you happen to see at the top of your lungs, followed by my name? It wouldn't be so bad; I have a drawer you can sleep in, and there is plenty of room behind my house where you can stretch your legs and graze. Also, if you could bring an annoying, talentless blonde along, that would be just great.

Whether you decide to take my offer or not, I look forward to seeing you in the upcoming "Indiana Jones and The Religious Artifact of No Real Significance."

Bubbleliciously,
Steve Jacobs

Steve Jacobs is at
jaco0731@d.umn.edu.

SHOCKING STATISTICS

Where are our tuition dollars going?

BY BOBBY DOWNS

STATESMAN STAFF WRITER

- 15 percent: Royalties for UMD Bulldog artist
- 20 percent: Anti-smoking propaganda
- 5 percent: Faculty salaries
- 30 percent: Men's and women's hockey teams
- 10 percent: Chancellor's private "Safety Word" parties
- 2.5 percent: U Card photographers
- 2.5 percent: New treadmills for the rec center

Bobby Downs is at
down0146@d.umn.edu.

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New ice brings beauty and danger

BY CHAAS TOBORG
& RYAN HANSON
STATESMAN STAFF WRITERS

With plenty of America's largest lake to go around, the common question around this "great" area is: When is it safe to go onto the lake?

Turns out the answer differs when walking, fishing, snowmobiling, or driving cars or trucks on the ice.

"I don't understand why people even take that risk, it's only water that we guess to be thick enough to handle our weight. Then they drill holes everywhere and expect the support to still be there," said freshman Kim Legler. "It just isn't worth it to me."

While there will always be people unwilling to take the risk of venturing to the ice to get their entertainment, sophomore Andrew Harten disagrees with those staying away from the slippery fun.

"This is Minnesota," said Harten. "It's what we are here for; we have ice hockey, ice fishing and snowmobiling. If you don't like it, go to Florida."

Since Lake Superior has not yet frozen over, the lake can pose a threat to anyone venturing out on the ice shelf. Lake Superior is a federal waterway, and is still patrolled by the U.S. Coast Guard, even

during winter.

"It's always a risk if you're going to go out on the ice," said Derek Franklin, Coast Guard Petty Officer First Class. "We average four to six rescues a year."

One of the primary tools the Coast Guard uses for rescues are helicopters, according to Franklin. However, the closest Coast Guard helicopters are in Traverse City, Mich., two hours away.

Often, Franklin said, trucks are used to get near accident sites, with a 14-foot ice boat used to reach those in trouble.

"There's always a risk if you're going to go out on the ice," said Franklin.

According to the Web site for the Minnesota DNR, four inches of clear and fresh ice is needed to make a safe trek on foot. If traveling by an ATV or snowmobile, five inches of the same ice is recommended.

Before taking a car or truck onto the ice, the DNR suggests that eight to 12 inches of fresh and clear ice is present, although the DNR discourages driving on the ice with any type of car or truck.

While the DNR sets these rules, they are not guaranteed to be correct for all cases.

If someone goes through the ice, the DNR offers important advice—first, make a plan. Do



not run up to the hole or the ice around it may break, leading to more victims. If a rescue cannot be made immediately, call 911. Seek immediate medical attention for any person subjected to water at any time.

According to the DNR, if someone falls in, they should swim towards the dark area of the ice. Many think the light colored ice is the open water, but the ice reflects the sun, making the water much brighter around icy areas.



ALL PHOTOS BY RYAN HANSON / STATESMAN

TOP: While parts of Lake Superior have frozen, a large portion of the lake, including Canal Park, remains open and unsafe.

BELOW: Fog rolls over the Canal Park lighthouse early this week.

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Ryan Hanson is at
hans1697@d.umn.edu.

25th running of John Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon set for Sunday

BY RYAN HANSON
STATESMAN STAFF WRITER

The John Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon, a 380-mile race, is set to kick off this Sunday at 1 p.m. from Ordean Middle School in Duluth.

The race, which was cancelled last year due to lack of snow, has organizers looking forward to the 25th running of the race.

"You can feel the excitement in the air around here," said Pat Olson, the Beargrease Race organizer.

"We have teams coming from Australia, Finland and Ireland, as well as Minnesota, Wisconsin and

Canada."

The Beargrease is a popular race, with the full marathon filling up all 30 slots within 24 hours of registration, according to Olson, and with the 150-mile mid-distance race sitting at around 45 of the available 50 slots.

"I believe that is darn near the most teams we've ever had," said Olson.

The 2008 Beargrease sees three of the five top finishers from 2006 racing again this year. This includes the second- and third-finishing husband/wife team of

Blake and Jennifer Freking, from Finland, Minn., along with fifth-place finisher Mike Bestgen, from St. Cloud. The 2005 and 2006 mid-distance champion John Stetson, from Duluth, will also try his hand at the full marathon in 2008.

Mushers and dogs will start arriving at Ordean Middle School around 10 a.m. to start setting up. The public is encouraged to attend the start of the race and talk with mushers and see their dogs.

"The earlier you get there, the better," said Olson. "Closer to the race, they [the mushers] start to get

focused on the race, but if you get there early, they love to talk about their dogs."

Team position and take-off time are determined by a random bib draw, and start racing two minutes apart from one another. The first start of the race is at 1 p.m., with the next musher starting at 1:02 p.m. The race takes over 30 hours to complete and ends at Billy's Bar, just south of the Canadian border.

Ryan Hanson is at
hans1697@d.umn.edu.

classifieds & briefs

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Campus Briefs

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By Georges Feydeau
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4 p.m.

Stanley R. Wold, coordinator
Weber Music Hall - FREE

Faculty Artist Recital: Scott
Belck, trumpet
Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2008

7:30 p.m.
Weber Music Hall - FREE

Faculty Artist Recital: An Evening with the Bassoon
Monday, Feb. 11, 2008
7:30 p.m.

Jefferson Campbell, bassoon;
Alexander Chernyshev, piano;
and Betsy Husby, cello.
Weber Music Hall - FREE

Ovation Guest Artist Series Concert:

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Gemma Coma-Alabert,
mezzo-soprano
Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2008
7:30 p.m.
Weber Music Hall -
\$30/\$25/\$15
All seats reserved. Advance
purchase recommended.

PUZZLES

See page 11 for answers

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion



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(Answers tomorrow)

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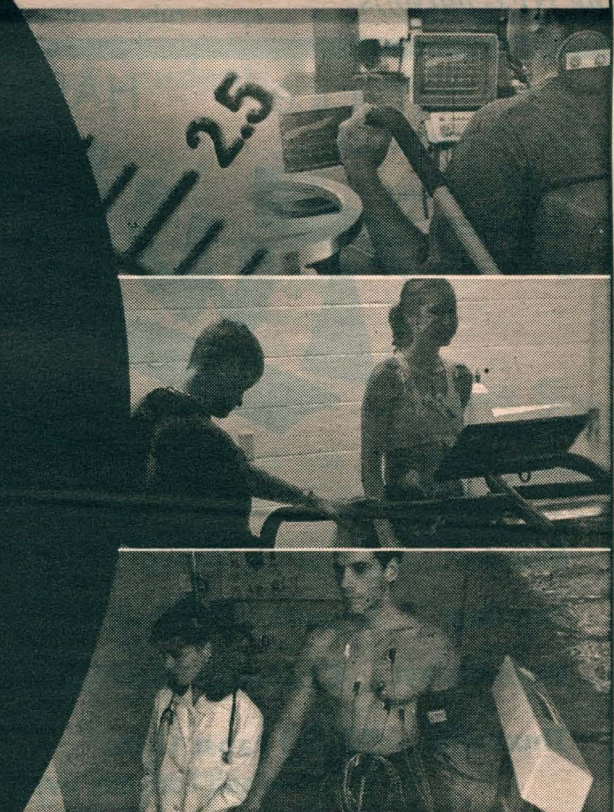
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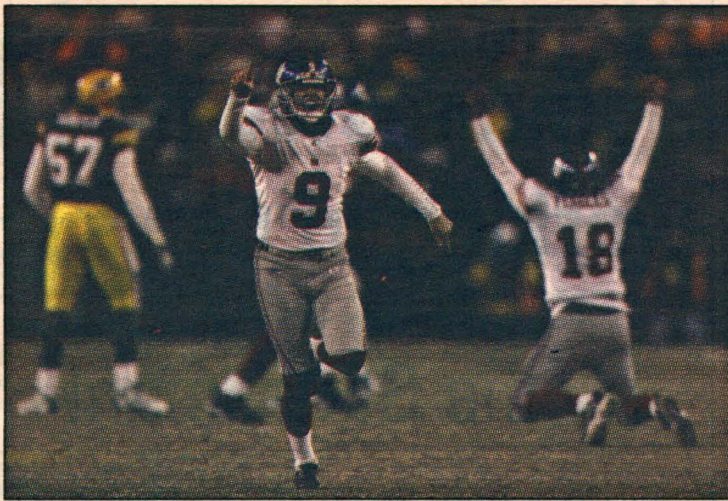
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ASSOCIATED PRESS
New York kicker Lawrence Tynes celebrates his winning field goal in Green Bay.

TEE-TIME WITH TAJEN

Favre's frigid loss at home in Lambeau Field, New England's run at perfection and a few upsets highlight the NFL playoffs

BY TAJEN STOCKDALE
STATESMAN STAFF WRITER

With three weeks of playoff football complete, only two teams remain, and the stage is set for Super Bowl XLII.

After failing to do so in the final game of the regular season, the New York Giants will attempt to beat the New England Patriots in the final and most important game of what has been an exciting postseason.

On one hand, Minnesota sport rubes can take plea-

sure in knowing the Packers have now lost an NFC championship game by a field goal in overtime too, much like the Vikings in 1998, and failed to reach the Super Bowl.

After defeating the Seahawks 42-20 in the second week of the playoffs, the young Packers seemed destined to play the Patriots in what would have been a rematch of Super Bowl XXXI.

Unfortunately for Brett Favre and company, the improbable performance of Eli Manning that carried the Giants to two previous road victories (nine straight, including the regular season) continued against the Pack.

The Giants got ahead early on two field goals by kicker Lawrence Tynes. After Koren Robinson nearly gave up possession on a kick off, Favre answered with a 90-yard touchdown pass to Donald Driver.

The Giants stayed in the game, though, scoring rushing touchdowns from Ahmad Bradshaw and Brandon

Jacobs.

After a Donald Lee touchdown and a Mason Crosby field goal, the game was tied at 20-20.

The Giants were given the opportunity to close the game out in the final seconds of regulation, but Tynes missed his second field goal of the game.

Despite his previous misses, he made it count in overtime, connecting on a 47-yard kick.

It may be a tough swallow for Packer fans, but in reality, they were only playing for an opportunity to lose the Super Bowl.

The Patriots didn't have much trouble taking care of the Chargers, continuing their pursuit of a perfect season and the opportunity to shut up Mercury Morris and the rest of the 1972 Miami Dolphins.

After steamrolling the competition throughout the regular season with a few hiccups against Philadelphia and Baltimore, the Patriots took care of Jacksonville handily in week two of the postseason. After the physical onslaught that both the Colts and the Chargers took that same week, it didn't seem like either one of them would have been healthy enough to even contend with the Pats in the AFC Championship.

The Chargers, however, made a game out of it, despite

losing LaDainian Tomlinson after only two rushes and failing to score a touchdown as a team. The Chargers defense played well, intercepting Tom Brady three times and holding Randy Moss to just one catch. Football mastermind Bill Belichick found a way to get his unstoppable team to the final step of their quest for perfection.

Sure, the playoffs were exciting, but they left many fans wanting more. The game between the Steelers and Jaguars was the only exciting game during wild card weekend. The Chargers ended the possibility of yet another postseason gem between Manning and Brady. The resurrection of the mid-90's Favre, the exciting road play of Eli Manning, and of course the juicy "Romosicca" scandal going down in big D provided its fair share of excitement to the postseason.

Nonetheless, the Super Bowl is here. Who would have ever guessed Manning would be the man attempting to thwart the Pats' attempt at perfection. After winning 10 consecutive road games and providing a decent threat in the final week of the regular season, the Giants have as good a shot as anyone at beating what very well could be the greatest football team of all time.

Tajen Stockdale is at stoc0152@d.umn.edu.

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Bulldog Rundown

BY ERIK ELSBERRY
STATESMAN STAFF WRITER



MEN'S BASKETBALL

An eight-game losing streak for the UMD men's basketball team finally came to an end against the University of Nebraska-Omaha with a 73-56 victory for the Bulldogs last Saturday at Romano Gym.

The Bulldogs have been no pushover, however, as four out of the eight losses were within 10 points. Three of their losses came against North Central Conference (NCC) rivals, St. Cloud State, Minnesota State University-Mankato and Augustana College. Their overall record is now 8-11, according to the UMD Web site.

Senior guard Jordan Nuness was a consistent scoring threat throughout the losing streak, scoring at least 20 in six of the eight games. Nuness leads the team in scoring, averaging nearly 19 points per game, according to the UMD Web site. Senior forward Brian Sykora averages just over 16 points per game. Sykora also leads the team in rebounds, averaging just shy of eight per game, according to the Web site.

The Bulldogs are sixth in the NCC with a conference record of 1-3.

UMD will take on conference rival St. Cloud State University for Alumni Day this Saturday, Jan. 26 at Romano Gym at 3 p.m.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

The women shared a similar fate, losing five of six contests held over winter break ending with a 78-83 home loss to the University of Nebraska-Omaha.

The Bulldogs have had a tough start to their conference schedule, losing all four of their games against NCC opponents during winter break.

However, like the men, they have stood their ground; losing by five or less to NCC rivals Minnesota State University-Mankato, Augustana College and Nebraska-Omaha.

The Bulldogs have been led by Senior guard Katy Freeman, averaging nearly 14 points per game. Freshman forward Kelsey Hewitt is leading the team in rebounds, with just over six per game, according to the Web site.

UMD is seventh in the NCC, with a conference record of 0-4 and an overall record of 3-11.

The women will take the court two hours prior to the men at 1 p.m. this Saturday, Jan. 26, when they butt-heads with St. Cloud State at the Romano Gym.

Erik Elsberry is at
elsb0008@d.umn.edu.

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Women's hockey win streak at twelve

BY KJESTINE STEINBRING
STATESMAN STAFF WRITER

While most UMD students were opening presents and enjoying their time off over break, the women's hockey team continued their control over the WCHA conference. With wins over St. Lawrence, Mankato and Bemidji, the women are going into this weekend's series with North Dakota with a record of 21-3-1.

Elin Holmlöv scored twice in the first period on Dec. 14, against St. Lawrence. The Saints came right back in the second to close the lead to 2-1. Iya Gavrilova used a power play to her advantage, making the score 3-1.

The Bulldogs put the game out of reach when Emmanuelle Blais scored an unassisted goal early in the third, making the final score 4-1.

St. Lawrence scored right away in the first period on Dec. 15, but the Bulldogs came surging back in the second when Saira Tuominen scored off a Gavrilova assist. Gavrilova, then, followed up her assist with two goals to give the Bulldogs the lead and the win with a score of 3-1.

Playing against their conference rivals Minnesota State University-Mankato,

(MSU), UMD kept the winning streak alive for the Dogs with two wins after the long road trip to New York. A tough game on Jan. 11, left both teams scoreless until late in the second when the Mavericks scored. UMD followed Mankato up with two of their own goals giving the Bulldogs a 2-1 victory and extending the winning streak to nine.

Saturday's game on Jan. 12, had more scoring right away from the first period, with goals contributed by both teams. MSU took the lead early in the third, but their hopes were dashed as UMD scored four goals in the third to win 5-2.

The next competition for the women's team was Bemidji State last week. Games on Friday and Saturday were dominated by the Bulldogs. With scores of 5-1 on Jan. 18 and 6-1 the next day, the team extended their winning streak to a program record of 12 in a row.

The women look to extend this winning streak and scoring frenzy this weekend against North Dakota. Games will be at the Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center (DECC) on both Friday, Jan. 25 and Saturday, Jan. 26.

Kjestic Steinbring is at
stein713@d.umn.edu.



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BOTH PHOTOS COURTESY OF ASSOCIATED PRESS

Above: The Bulldogs' Josh Meyers knocks Minnesota's Jay Barriball's helmet loose during a scuffle near the net in Friday night's 1-1 tie between the two in-state rivals.

Right: UMD's Michael Gergen gets pushed to the ice behind Minnesota goalie Alex Kangas by the Gophers' Blake Wheeler, left, and David Fischer while the UMD's Jordan Fulton tries to split the defenders.



Gophers top the Dogs in rivalry series

BY ALI DRAVES
STATESMAN STAFF WRITER

The Bulldogs hosted their arch nemesis, the Minnesota Gophers, this past weekend, resulting in a heartbreaking tie and near win.

The teams remained scoreless in both the first and second period of last Friday's game, leaving the fans on the edge of their seats.

With an early goal at 1:16 in the third period from senior Ben Gordon, the Gophers took first blood, according to the UMD Web site.

Senior Matt McKnight scored at 8:44 in the third for UMD, tying the score at 1-1.

After a slew of penalties, the teams headed into overtime. Despite their efforts, the score remained tied at 1-1 after the five-minute extra period.

The Gophers took another early lead in last Saturday's game with a goal by sophomore Tony Lucia in

the first period. Sophomore Mike Carman scored again for Minnesota in the second period, making the score 2-0.

The play continued to be aggressive as each team spent a lot of time in the penalty box. Junior Jason Garrison shed a little light for UMD, scoring in the third period at 9:02, according to the Web site.

With a late penalty for grabbing the facemask at 18:32 by junior Andrew Carroll, the Bulldogs struggled to score the tying goal. Despite a timeout play, the Bulldogs gave up a rare home loss to the Gophers.

The loss dropped the Bulldogs' record to 2-2-2 during the six games they played over winter break.

The team started off the break with a win against the Bemidji State Beavers, 5-3. Junior MacGregor Sharp scored on a power play for UMD in the first period and got the ball rolling, 1-0, according to the Web site.

Freshmen Justin Fontaine and Cody Danberg both scored for the Bulldogs in the second, tying Bemidji 3-3 before heading into the third period. Junior Michael Gergen scored his fifth goal of the season in the third, giving UMD the lead. Junior Nick Kemp followed Gergen's example, scoring for the Bulldogs and solidifying their victory, 5-3, according to the Web site.

Despite the win, UMD lost to the Beavers in the second game of their home-and-home series.

After two scoreless periods, the Bulldogs' defense had met its match. Sophomore Blaine Jarvis and freshman Emil Billberg each scored for Bemidji, giving them the win at 2-0.

Next, the Bulldogs returned home to Duluth to face the Mankato State University (MSU) Mavericks. The Dogs slid by with an overtime victory over MSU on Jan. 11, 4-3.

The Mavericks and Bulldogs desperately fought to regain a solid

lead.

However, Danberg sealed the deal for UMD with a much-needed third period goal and overtime game-winning clincher.

The game on Saturday, Jan. 12 proved to be another ruthless battle, ending in a 2-2 tie. UMD gained an early lead in the first period with almost simultaneous goals from Sharp at 5:26 and junior Josh Meyers at 5:43, according to the Web site.

Despite the momentum, MSU was able to tie the score at 2-2. Both teams were unable to pull for the win in overtime.

The Bulldogs now have a 8-8-6 overall and 6-7-5 conference record, according to the Web site.

The Bulldogs travel to Lowell, Mass., this weekend to play the University of Lowell River Hawks.

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